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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1963



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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963.

Divisional Health Offices,
Brogden Street,
Ulverston.

August, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	8,022.
Population - Census, 1961	10,316
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1963	10,310
Number of inhabited houses	3,490
Rateable Value	£234,297
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£932.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the North Lonsdale Rural District. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying areas flooded with water.

The chief industries are viscose manufacturing, shoe-making, brickworks, clothing manufacture and agriculture, but a large proportion of the male working population is employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for the year 1963 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

157 births were registered, 79 being males and 78 females, 5 male and 2 female were illegitimate.

Approximately 67.5% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 63, Malignant growths 26, and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 19. Of the 63 deaths from Heart disease, 32 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year	Live Births	Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality	
		Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered
1963	157	15.2	160	15.5	4	24.8	Nil	4	25.5
1962	168	16.3	135	13.1	3	17.5	Nil	6	35.7
1961	156	15.1	148	14.3	6	37.0	Nil	4	25.6
1960	167	16.3	136	13.3	2	11.8	Nil	3	18
1959	154	15.0	139	13.6	1	6.5	Nil	6	39
1958	158	15.4	143	13.9	5	30.7	Nil	2	12.7
Average 5 years 1958-62		-	15.6	-	13.6	-	20.7	-	26.2
								2	21.2

Adjusted live birth rate 1963 (comparability factor 1.05) = 16.0 per 1,000
 Adjusted death rate 1963 (comparability factor, 1.06) = 16.4 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1963	17.3	12.2	16.0	16.4
1962	18.0	11.9	16.6	13.6
1961	17.4	12.0	15.4	14.9
1960	17.1	11.5	16.7	13.8
1959	16.5	11.6	15.3	14.1

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District
Council, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District Council,
North Lonsdale Rural District
Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1
Lancashire County Council.

Other Appointments Held:-

K.C. McCUTCHEON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Meat and Other Foods
Inspectors Certificate

Cleansing Superintendent and Housing
Manager - Dalton in Furness Urban
District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The provision and maintenance of public water supplies throughout the District is the responsibility of the Furness Water Board. Dalton is supplied from Foaka Beck reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha intake of the River Duddon.

No new sources of supply were acquired during the year but the main was extended to supply the new estate of private dwellings at Ireleth.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

3,430 houses are now supplied direct from public mains, 9 from standpipes and 14 have private supplies.

SEWAGE

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the site of the old gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon estuary. Sewage from the hamlet of Newton passes through a settlement tank, the effluent being discharged to a stream. The new sewage works at Martin were completed during the year so that both Lindal and Martin now have sewage disposal plant where full treatment is given before discharging the effluent to nearby streams.

8 houses have privy middens and another 8 have pail closets, the remainder being on the water carriage system.

HOUSING

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness. Repairs and improvements are slow to be carried out. A notable feature is the number of houses which are owner/occupied, this is estimated by the Rates Department to be 70% of the total hereditaments. In addition a further 17% are owned by the Council.

A caravan site at Askam is licensed for 15 permanent and 45 holiday caravans.

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(1) By the local authority	14	-
(2) By other local authorities	-	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	23	-

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year

578

(3) Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	43
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	109
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	38
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	15
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	2

(4) Houses Demolished:-	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas:			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	25	8
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-

Not in Clearance Areas:	Nil	-	-
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(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-		Nil
(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	20	-
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	1	1
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	-

(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-	Nil
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(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement	
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ...	Nil
(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement grants etc.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -
Action taken during the year:-	Private Bodies or individuals Local Authority
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	- -
(2) Approved by local authority	- -
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	- 6
(4) Finally approved by Ministry	- 6
(5) Work completed	- -
(6) Additional separate dwellings included in (5) above	- -

(1) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants:-	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Action during year:	
(1) Applications submitted to local authority	73
(2) Applications approved by local authority	70
(3) Work completed	47

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1958-1962 compared with the number in 1963.

Disease	Number of cases in year					1963	
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet fever	1	3	1	-	1	-	-
Measles	36	16	32	144	27	196	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	17	-	7	-
Dysentery	4	-	-	-	3	1	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	4	-	3	4	2	-
Meningococcal infection	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	1	-	1	8	-	-	-
TOTALS	47	25	35	172	35	206	-

Measles was prevalent during the year and the cases occurred in two waves, one in the first quarter and one in the last quarter of the year.

The No. 5 Mass Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board visited the District in May, and carried out 1,326 x-rays at Dalton and 587 at Askam.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1963.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and upwards	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
TOTALS	7	2	1	-	3	1	-	-
	9		1		4		0	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1952	4	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
1953	9	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
1954	10	4	1	-	1	1	-	-
1955	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	6	9	-	-	3	-	-	-
1957	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
1958	8	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
1960	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1961	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1962	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
1963	7	2	1	-	3	1	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector):-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	4	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	20	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred -	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) -				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above-named Acts.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON IN FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you this portion of the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service.

It is disappointing that this report cannot be one showing great progress, in fact it was only possible to try and keep pace with day to day routine matters.

Having completed my first year as your Public Health Inspector I can now report not so much on things that have been achieved but on the aims for the future.

During the year it became obvious that an Additional Public Health Inspector was essential if the duties and responsibilities of the Authority were to be properly carried out, but at the end of the year no response had been received to advertisements for this appointment.

Generally, much more progress is needed in Food Hygiene in the district, in all types of food premises, and a housing survey is needed in order to ascertain the number of houses which could be brought up to a satisfactory standard regarding amenities.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of applications for Standard Grants showed an increase over last year. A total of 73 applications were received, 70 of these being approved during the year. In 47 cases the work was completed by the end of the year. Once again the grants were made in nearly all cases to owner/occupiers, although it was pleasing to note that five landlords did take advantage of the scheme.

212 visits were made to premises in connection with grants.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Samples of milk were taken as often as possible and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston for examination.

The following tables give details of the samples and results.

1. Samples for Biological Examination:-

Total No. of Samples submitted 58

Results:-	Results		
	Positive	Negative	No Result
(a) Tuberculosis	0	4	54
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test	13	45	0
(c) Brucellosis - Culture Test	9	4	-
(d) Brucellosis - Biological Test	1	3	-

2. Samples for Statutory Tests:-

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void Samples.
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Raw Milk:

(a) Methylene Blue Test	32	28	4	0
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Heat Treated Milk:

(b) Methylene Blue Test)	3	{	3	0	0
(c) Phosphatase Test }			2	1	0
(d) Turbidity Test	0		0	0	0

22 Samples were taken from individual cows in one herd in order to find the cows giving milk containing Brucella organisms. The milk from the infected cow was not sold to the public in the raw state.

ICE CREAM

5 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and the results are shown in the following table:-

Provisional Grade	I	II	III	IV
No. of Samples	2	1	1	1

FOOD HYGIENE

As mentioned previously in this report a great deal of work is necessary in this District to bring the food premises up to the required standard. A complete survey of all types of food premises is required, but it has not been possible to commence this during the year because of the time which had to be devoted to other duties which are administered by the department.

Detailed inspections were made of only 10 of the larger premises in the town and many contraventions of the Regulations were found. Improvements were obtained, but regular and frequent inspections were not possible. Only by regular visits to all types of food premises will the standard be brought up to that which is necessary and to which the public are entitled.

At the end of the year the types of food premises in the district were as follows:-

General grocers and provision dealers	35
Greengrocers and fruitcrers	8
Fishmongers	3
Meat shops	11
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Fried Fish Shops	9
Shops selling mainly sugar, confectionery minerals etc.	11
Licenced premises, clubs, canteens, cafes etc.	39

During the year 52 visits were made to such premises.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The slaughterhouse at Lindal is visited at all times when slaughtering is being carried out. During the year 76 beasts and 116 sheep were killed and inspected. A total weight of 478 lbs of meat condemned as unfit, no major diseases being found, the causes for condemnation being mainly parasitic conditions.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

A total weight of 115 lbs of assorted foodstuffs were condemned as unfit after being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

RODENT CONTROL

One part time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council. 1247 visits were made to various types of premises and 360 infested properties were treated. In addition the sewers in the district were test baited and treated. No major infestation of the sewers was found.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Last year I reported on the unsatisfactory state of the refuse tip. This year it is pleasing to report that the condition is much improved, this being due to the purchase of a Refuse Control Bulldozer which is in regular use. The tip is some way out of the town and difficulty is experienced in preventing unauthorised persons gaining access and on many occasions setting refuse on fire.

A weekly collection is maintained in the district and two vehicles have been in continuous use but recently it has been necessary to use a third vehicles on occasions. The nature of refuse is changing and becoming more bulky, and next year a larger compression type vehicle will be brought into use which will mean a saving in time, at present taken up with frequent journeys to the tip which have to be made by the existing smaller vehicles.

GENERAL

The more routine work continued to be carried out as efficiently as possible under the circumstances. Next year will see further new legislation which will place a further burden on the department, in particular there will be the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and possibly a new Housing Act. It is hoped that by that time additional technical staff will have been obtained otherwise it may prove impossible to carry out the statutory duties of the local authority.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the consideration they have shown, and also to the Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for the co-operation received during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

K.C. McCutcheon,

Public Health Inspector.

